

TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE TRUST FUND

Recommendation

The staff recommends that the council approve the following allocations from the 1998-2000 General Fund appropriation to the Technology Initiative Trust Fund:

- \$650,000 for academic program development, primarily the statewide strategy on engineering education.
- \$300,000 for the development and administration of surveys that support the key indicators.
- \$100,000 for the council's Web development.
- \$400,000 for degree audit and course transfer systems.
- \$100,000 for local P-16 councils.

Background

The Technology Initiative Trust Fund (KRS 164.7921) is the most broadly drawn of the six original strategic initiative and investment trust funds. For the 1998-2000 biennium, \$20.3 million was appropriated to the trust fund to implement a statewide technology infrastructure, to improve campus technology infrastructures, and to develop the Kentucky Virtual University and the Kentucky Virtual Library. The statute includes language that permits use of the trust fund for efforts that support the system's strategic agenda. The language reads in part:

(1) (b) to provide funding for the Commonwealth Virtual University . . . and other programs consistent with the purposes of postsecondary education, the adopted strategic agenda, and the biennial budget process.

The council staff recommends the allocation of the majority of the remaining funds to five activities that are consistent with the adopted strategic agenda.

As of July 1, 2000, approximately \$6.1 million remains in the trust fund, including interest income. The approved and recommended allocations from the 1998-2000 trust fund appropriation are shown on the following schedule. These allocations were presented to the Finance Committee for discussion at its January 16 and February 5 meetings.

As shown, \$3.66 million of the remaining funds will be needed to complete the 1998-2000 projects, which are primarily related to the Kentucky Virtual University and the Kentucky Virtual Library. During the 2000 session of the General Assembly, the council agreed to fund several activities from the trust fund, most notably equal educational opportunities such as the Southern Regional Education Board Faculty Diversity Program and a mathematics diagnostic test authorized by House Bill 178.

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